



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 19 March 2008

Current Nationwide



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- According to the Associated Press, a security breach at an East Coast supermarket chain exposed 4.2 million credit and debit card numbers and led to 1,800 cases of fraud, the Hannaford Bros. grocery chain announced Monday. The breach affected all of its 165 stores in the Northeast, 106 Sweetbay stores in Florida, and a smaller number of independent groceries that sell Hannaford products. (See item [12](#))
- The Gainesville Daily Register reports emergency responders from various Cooke County agencies arrived at Era, Texas, for a mass casualty exercise. The exercise brought together volunteer firefighters, state troopers, emergency management officials, EMS responders, members of the media, and others to test how well these life-saving organizations can work together during a crisis. (See item [28](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 18, Anchorage Daily News* – (Alaska) **Climate report signals concern.** Expect some big problems on the horizon, according to the final, 124-page report issued Monday by the Alaska Climate Impact Assessment Commission – the state Legislature-led group that has spent two years examining possible effects of global warming in Alaska. An example is thawing permafrost: Rising temperatures pose a special threat to

the trans-Alaska pipeline, which was constructed over hundreds of miles of frozen ground. Damage to the pipeline's support structures, the report says, could cost up to \$800 million to repair. Melting permafrost could also damage hundreds of miles of roads and the foundations and pipes of thousands of public facilities.

Source: <http://www.adn.com/news/alaska/story/348268.html>

2. *March 17, Associated Press* – (National) **Minn. biodiesel plant suspends operations due to soybean oil cost.** The rising cost of soybean oil, a main ingredient in biodiesel, has led a New Jersey company to shut down, delayed construction of a plant in Nebraska, and now forced a Minnesota producer to temporarily suspend operations. The chairman of the Board of Governors of SoyMor in Minnesota said Monday that SoyMor had already scaled back production – operating only about 15 days a month for the last four months. Last week, the board voted to suspend operations. Other biodiesel producers are feeling the pinch and a handful have suspended production, said a spokesperson for the National Biodiesel Board (NBB). Recent news reports have cited the soaring price of soybean oil as a factor in the shutdown of a biofuel company in Edison, New Jersey, and in construction delays at a plant in Beatrice, Nebraska. “Many other plants are running at a very low rate of capacity,” said an agricultural economist with the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. “There are many others that were building, constructing plants that were never opened, and probably a lot of others that had plans drawn up that have been abandoned for now.” Soybean prices are at historic highs, the economist said, and the market is volatile. On Monday, soybean oil futures were trading at 60 cents a pound. In early February, the price was about 55 cents a pound. With soybean prices at all-time highs, some companies have diversified so their plants can use more than one kind of feedstock, the NBB spokesperson said.

Source: <http://www.jamestownsun.com/ap/index.cfm?page=view&id=D8VFF8HG2>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *March 18, Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Braithwaite chemical leak reported.** A chemical leak was reported Monday morning in Braithwaite, Louisiana, State Police said. An employee of Stolthaven New Orleans LLC saw a chemical leaking from a storage tank at the facility at 9:24 a.m. The company notified state and local agencies, then contained the leak, State Police said. The leaking chemical was fluorosilicic acid, used to treat water. A State Police news release did not say how much of the chemical leaked. Air monitoring was conducted and no off-site problems were detected. After air monitoring by the State Police Hazardous Materials Unit and the state Department of Environmental Quality, roadblocks in the area were lifted, the news release said. There were no injuries reported. The facility is a liquid bulk storage and transfer terminal.

Source:

<http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/metro/index.ssf?/base/news-27/1205823002106210.xml&coll=1>

4. *March 17, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Cleanup near Dow Chemical Plant**

overdue. More than a century after Dow Chemical Co. began dumping dioxins into a river flowing past its mid-Michigan plant, the company and regulators are still debating how to clean a swath of waters and wetlands that now reaches 50 miles to Lake Huron. Dow acknowledges tainting the Tittabawassee and Saginaw rivers, their floodplains, portions of the city of Midland and Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay with dioxins – chemical byproducts believed to cause cancer and damage reproductive and immune systems. But the company says it must finish measuring how much pollution exists – and where – before devising a cleanup plan. Government officials are pushing Dow to move faster, as some local residents forge ahead with a lawsuit against the chemical giant. Dow has spent about \$40 million in recent years on studies, sediment sampling and other preliminary work. It removed tainted soil from four “hot spots” in 2007. One had the highest dioxin levels ever recorded in the Great Lakes region, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says. But the company, which also has its world headquarters in Midland, still has not agreed with regulators on a comprehensive strategy for repairing the watershed. Critics accuse Dow of dragging its feet. A Dow spokesman insists the company is meeting its responsibilities but has honest disagreements with the government over the extent of the problem and how to fix it. A group of landowners along the Tittabawassee sued Dow in 2003, saying the pollution had damaged property values. The Michigan Court of Appeals recently granted the case class-action status, which attorneys say could boost the number of plaintiffs from 170 to about 2,000. The court last week denied Dow's request to reconsider. A company spokesman said Monday the company would appeal to the state Supreme Court.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/080317/mi_dow_dioxin.html?.v=1

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *March 18, Ohio.com* – (Ohio) **Perry reactor nears full power.** FirstEnergy Corp. said it is ramping up the Perry nuclear reactor after a reduction for maintenance and testing. The unit was shown at 68 percent in a March 14 report. The reactor should reach full power this week, said a company spokesperson.
Source: <http://www.ohio.com/business/16774386.html>
6. *March 18, Knoxville News Sentinel* – (Tennessee) **Uranium processing facility to reopen.** Federal officials have approved the restart of a key uranium process at the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant. A spokesperson for B&W Technical Services, the government's managing contractor at Y-12, said readiness reviews at the Oxide Conversion Facility were completed recently by B&W and the National Nuclear Security Administration's Oak Ridge staff. “Both reviews concluded that the process is ready for safe operation, and we received restart authorization March 14 from the (National Nuclear Security Administration) site office,” he said. The start-up plan for the operation is still under evaluation, and no start-up date has been set. The processing facility, which converts uranium oxide to uranium tetrafluoride, has been shut down since September 2006.
Source: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2008/mar/18/uranium-processing-facility-to-reopen/>

7. *March 17, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Nuclear material removal from shuttered reactor almost done.** Removal of the last uranium 233 from old fuel tanks at Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Molten Salt Reactor – which has been idle for nearly 40 years – may only be weeks away. That would be a major milestone after years of delays in the \$384 million cleanup. The Department of Energy's environmental manager in Oak Ridge said the work could be done by late March or early April. Uranium from the reactor is being moved to another building in the Oak Ridge Lab complex for processing beginning in 2012. It will be turned into non-weapons forms that eventually can be shipped to New Mexico for disposal.
Source: <http://www.wate.com/global/story.asp?s=8028360>
8. *March 17, Associated Press* – (Idaho) **Senate backs tax breaks for Idaho uranium plant.** The Senate today passed two big tax breaks meant to lure a proposed new \$2 billion uranium enrichment facility that French-owned Areva Inc. wants to build near Idaho Falls. Lawmakers voted 27-7 to extend a sales tax exemption for production equipment that handles nuclear fuel. They also voted 23-11 to cap property tax valuations at the proposed plant to \$400 million, provided the company invests a minimum of \$1 billion in the next seven years. A state senator called the measures important bills to make Idaho competitive with other states in winning the facility. Opponents argued it was bad tax policy to give concessions to companies without getting firm commitments.
Source: http://www.localnews8.com/Global/story.asp?S=8030666&nav=menu554_2_1

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *March 16, Newport News* – (National) **Captain says new sub is quietest in the world.** The \$2.33 billion North Carolina is the fourth boat of the Virginia class to be delivered to the Navy. Last Friday in the Atlantic, the North Carolina's crew took the boat on its first excursion since being moved from Newport News to Cape Canaveral to prepare for its May 3 commissioning in Wilmington, North Carolina. The nuclear-powered sub is capable of plunging more than 800 feet below the ocean's surface and cruising at speeds faster than 25 knots. It can plunge 600 feet below sea level in a matter of two minutes. The North Carolina, like other Virginia-class ships, represents a giant leap forward for undersea warfare. Dated periscope systems that used to take up most of the control room were replaced with video cameras that broadcast live footage on large-screen monitors throughout the boat. That allowed for sonar technicians to move into the room, close to command, as opposed to in a separate space elsewhere in the boat. New design in the torpedo room allows for Tomahawk cruise missiles and MK-48 ADCAP torpedoes to be loaded onto the boat and into tubes faster and easier. Ten Navy SEALs can squeeze into the sub's lockout chamber for clandestine deployments to enemy shores. In previous sub classes, three men could use the chamber. Because of a new method of construction that added thick rubber buffers and hydraulic shock absorbers to the deck, the boat's commanding officer calls the North Carolina "the quietest boat in the world."
Source: http://www.dailypress.com/news/local/norfolk/dp-local_submarine_0316mar16,0,3034500.story?page=1

Banking and Finance Sector

10. *March 18, vnunet.com* – (National) **Cybercrooks step up taxing attacks.** With the U.S. tax deadline drawing closer, criminals have stepped up their use of tax-themed spam attacks. Researchers at Symantec have documented new attacks, which use the tax season as a way to lure users into downloading malware. “We have recently observed a few new types of spam in relation to tax season. This spam [is] of a more sinister type as it directs you to download a virus,” wrote a Symantec researcher. One of the attacks directly mimics the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The user is sent an email from what appears to be an IRS email address. The message tells the user that a new law has been passed requiring all users to download special software in order to file their taxes. The email then directs the user to what appears to be an official IRS web page. In reality, the URL redirects to another page which then installs a Trojan application. Believing the software to be genuine, the user then launches the Trojan and installs the malware. The researcher also noted a second attack which attempts to mimic the TurboTax tax preparation software. Like the first attack, the message tells the user that a new law is requiring users to update their software. The user is directed to a fraudulent TurboTax update page which leads to the download of a Trojan. Users can spot the attack by the distinct “turbotax.cn” domain of the sender and the use of a suspicious address for the download page.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2212208/cybercrooks-step-tax-attacks>

11. *March 18, News-Times* – (Connecticut) **Danbury women accused of laundering millions of dollars.** Federal agents have arrested the owners of a Danbury, Connecticut, insurance firm, accusing them of laundering nearly \$10 million. The two women are accused of laundering the money between Brazil and the U.S. in black market operations. They are each charged with money laundering and making illegal wire transfers. Court documents show authorities began investigating the allegations as early as last August, when an undercover IRS agent posed as a drug dealer who needed to send money to a Texas bank.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/connecticut/ny-bc-ct--moneylaundering0318mar18,0,4461220.story>

12. *March 17, Associated Press* – (National) **4.2 Million credit card numbers stolen from supermarket chain.** A security breach at an East Coast supermarket chain exposed 4.2 million credit and debit card numbers and led to 1,800 cases of fraud, the Hannaford Bros. grocery chain announced Monday. The breach affected all of its 165 stores in the Northeast, 106 Sweetbay stores in Florida and a smaller number of independent groceries that sell Hannaford products. Hannaford said credit and debit card numbers were stolen during the card authorization process and about 4.2 million unique account numbers were exposed. The company is aware of about 1,800 cases of fraud reported so far relating to the breach. No personal data such as names, addresses or telephone numbers were divulged — just account numbers. Hannaford became aware of the breach February 27. Investigators later discovered that the data breach began on December 7; it

was not contained until March 10, said Hannaford's vice president of marketing. The company urged its customers to monitor their credit and debit cards for unusual transactions and report any problems to authorities. The U.S. Secret Service, whose duties include investigating electronic crimes such as data breaches, confirmed it is investigating but declined to comment on the scope of the crime.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,338712,00.html>

13. *March 17, International Herald Tribune* – (National) **Eroding confidence stings bank shares.** Volatile markets and worried policy makers on Monday offered clear evidence that the months-long financial crisis linked to the U.S. mortgage market has turned into an acute crisis of confidence in the global banking system. Stunned over the weekend by the emergency bailout and sale of the Wall Street investment firm Bear Stearns, investors on Monday were digesting the reality that lower U.S. interest rates and massive liquidity injections by central banks worldwide have offered only fleeting relief from the crisis. Trust, a vital part of any financial system, was in short supply as rumors flashed around the world as to what bank, brokerage or hedge fund might fail next. The crisis has not affected European or Asian banks as deeply, but credit market jitters emanating from the United States have raced across national boundaries. Rates for lending among banks - a barometer of confidence within the financial sector - shot up Monday to levels not seen since early January.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/03/17/business/markets.php>

14. *March 17, Chesterton Tribune* – (Indiana) **BBB says beware of new 809 area code scam.** The Better Business Bureau (BBB) of Northern Indiana is warning Hoosier consumers about the new "809 area code" scam. The scam works this way. An e-mail, phone call, page, or other means of communication alerts the consumer to call a number in the 809 area code for one of these reasons: the recipient's friend or relative is sick; he has won a sweepstakes or lottery; the recipient has outstanding debt and if he does not call immediately, his credit score could be jeopardized. Foreign countries are now using U.S. area codes, and persons who get taken by this scam are being tricked into calling a number which will cost them a lot of money. Once the victim calls that number, he is connected to a fax machine, lengthy recorded message, or pay-per-call service with a hefty up-front fee, all intended to keep the victim on the line as long as possible while the clock ticks and charges increase. The scammer's foreign phone company then bills the victim via his local phone company, splitting the proceeds with the scammer and leaving the victim little or no recourse since the foreign phone company operates outside U.S. jurisdiction and is not subject to U.S. laws. Scammers have been using the 809 area codes but other codes are being used as well. Alerts have been posted at the site of the National Fraud Information Center alerting businesspersons especially to "fax back" solicitations employing the 809 callback trick.

Source:

http://www.chestertontribune.com/Business/bbb_says_beware_of_new_809_area.htm

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Transportation Sector

15. *March 18, Associated Press* – (National) **Major Northeast freeway shut down in Philadelphia after large crack discovered in support pillar.** A two-mile stretch of Interstate 95 in Philadelphia was shut down early Tuesday, backing up commuter traffic for miles, as workers began emergency repairs on a crack in a concrete support pillar beneath the major northeast corridor. Repairs to the crack, which ranges from 2 inches to several inches wide, required closure of both northbound and southbound lanes of the highway north of the city's central business district, a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation spokesman said Monday. The section of the interstate carries about 190,000 vehicles a day, making the repair "a major undertaking," he said. The mayor said officials hoped to have the damage repaired in two days. A smaller crack, about a half-inch wide, was first noticed by an inspector last fall. The same inspector happened to be in the area Monday and decided to check on the support, the official said. "This crack has grown considerably since October," he said. "It was very fortuitous that he took that look today." PennDOT planned to erect four steel towers to surround and support the concrete pillar, after which the highway would be reopened.
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,338771,00.html>
16. *March 18, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **NTSB details loads on fallen bridge.** More than 191 tons of construction material was piled over the weakest areas of the Interstate 35W Bridge shortly before the span collapsed into the Mississippi River, federal investigators said. The piles of rock and sand, to be used in resurfacing the bridge, were placed over steel gusset plates, connectors joining bridge beams, that were thinner than they should have been, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said in an update on its investigation Monday. The NTSB said it expects to produce its final report on the cause of the collapse by the end of the year.
Source: http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gcB4CanoqXUqZft7gM26zO54E0_wD8VFSN405
17. *March 18, CJAD 800AM* – (New York) **Montreal man makes bomb threat at JFK - promptly arrested.** A Montreal man has been arrested in New York after making a bomb threat at JFK airport. The 26-year-old man approached an American Airlines gate agent after missing a flight on March 9th. It is alleged during the conversation, he indicated he wanted to speak to a supervisor about a bomb on a plane. When the supervisor was called, the man allegedly told the supervisor, quote "I did not say that, but I can have it done." The man has been charged with falsely reporting an incident.
Source: <http://www.cjad.com/news/565/685132>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to Report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *March 18, USAgNet* – (National) **Bill introduced to shut down facilities that repeatedly slaughter downers.** A U.S. senator introduced legislation that would shut down slaughter facilities that repeatedly process downed animals and offer stiff fines and temporary one-year shutdowns for first- and second-time violators. The bill will give the U.S. Department of Agriculture additional authority to apply a tough penalty system on facilities that violate the law when it comes to handling nonambulatory animals.
Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=661&yr=2008>
19. *March 17, HealthDay News* – (National) **Food-borne illnesses from leafy greens on rise in U.S.** There was a significant increase in the proportion of food-borne illness outbreaks in the U.S. linked to leafy green vegetables from 1973 to 2006, but the rise cannot be completely explained by increased consumption of leafy greens, researchers say. “During the 1986-1995 period, U.S. leafy green consumption increased 17 percent from the previous decade. During the same period, the proportion of food-borne disease outbreaks due to leafy greens increased 60 percent. Likewise, during 1996 to 2005, leafy green consumption increased 9 percent, and leafy green-associated outbreaks increased 39 percent,” a researcher with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a prepared statement. His analysis of more than 10,000 food-borne illnesses from 1973 to 2006 revealed that leafy greens were involved in a total of five percent of all food-borne outbreaks. Most of the leafy green outbreaks were caused by norovirus (60 percent), while others were caused by salmonella (10 percent), and E. coli (nine percent). The study findings were presented Monday at the International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases.
Source:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/hsn/20080318/hl_hsn/foodborneillnessesfromleafygreensonriseinus;_ylt=ArXkEI8hIcXUj3441C7dezSs0NUE
20. *March 17, Reuters* – (National) **USDA warns changes could delay recalls.** It took four hours under the U.S. Agriculture Department’s voluntary recall system to begin February’s Westland/Hallmark Meat Packing Co. recall, which was the largest meat recall in history. “I do know that within four hours they (the beef plant) had issued the recall from the time we asked them to do the voluntary recall,” the agriculture undersecretary, who oversees USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service, said during the Reuters Food Summit. Under some proposed mandatory recall systems the time could have been much longer, he said, “Under one of the (mandatory) plans they would have asked for a two-day delay until we had a public hearing. Another plan we would notify them they had 15 days to think about it.”
Source:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080317/us_nm/food_summit_usda_safety_dc;_ylt=Avr.Jj6Q0fLnR2efg2.QSXcWIr0F

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Water Sector

21. *March 18, USA Today* – (Alabama; Florida; Georgia) **Drought eases, water wars**

persist. Much of the Southeast has been deluged recently by winter downpours, but the drought has not ended, although it has eased across most of the region, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor and the National Weather Service. Lake Purdy, the main drinking water supply for Birmingham, Alabama, is at normal levels for the first time in almost a year. Some Alabama farmers are finding fields too wet to prepare for spring planting. North Carolina dropped recently from 39 to zero counties in the worst category of drought. In Atlanta, the drought is essentially over, says the chief of the environmental planning division of the Atlanta Regional Commission. Now comes the challenge of resolving new and long-standing disputes over water that some experts say could hamper the region's emergence as an economic and population powerhouse. In a part of the nation where water shortages have not traditionally been an issue, it is difficult to tell whether even a historic drought has made a lasting difference, some scholars say. "The Southeast has not yet come to grips with the fact that it has a water problem, that it needs to plan for its water usage, that it can't take for granted that all the water it needs will always be there," says a law professor and water expert at Florida State University's College of Law. The areas with disputes include: Georgia, Florida, and Alabama; Atlanta; the Carolinas; and the Tennessee River.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/environment/2008-03-17-water-wars_N.htm

22. *March 17, Ventura County Star* – (California) **Water watchers think ahead.** The rate hikes and conservation efforts in southern California appear inconsistent with the weather, after winter storms filled many area reservoirs and stacked snow in the Sierra Nevada, pulling California out of a drought. Although the state dodged a drought this year, the delta smelt decision has affected California's water supply, prompting voluntary cutbacks and rate increases. But the decision to protect the delta smelt points to something beyond the environmental harm of sucking too much water from one part of the state and sending it to another. It illustrates the vulnerability of the state's water supply in the long term and how arid southern California is never far from a drought. Risks are outlined in projections that suggest that there will be more droughts, a rise in sea level, damaging effects from global warming, and reduced Sierra snowpack. Beyond that is the threat of a catastrophic failure of the delta's aging levee system in an earthquake, which could cripple the water supply and cost \$40 billion to repair. The "solution" talked about most by water officials involves conservation, recycling water, better and more storage for dry years, and, more significantly, possibly re-engineering the delta.

Source: <http://www.venturacountystar.com/news/2008/mar/17/water-watchers-think-ahead/>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

23. *March 18, KWMU 90.7 Saint Louis* – (Missouri; Illinois) **Missouri and Illinois health officials to conduct Anthrax exercise.** Health officials in Missouri and Illinois will be conducting a large-scale exercise Wednesday to test their response to a biological attack. The exercise will simulate how health officials and emergency responders would handle

an Anthrax attack in the St. Louis area. The activities will be conducted behind closed doors and not out in public. A Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services official says they will be tested on how they distribute medicine and supplies through the Strategic National Stockpile. Officials will also practice setting up warehouses where medicines would be distributed to the public in an emergency.

Source:

http://publicbroadcasting.net/kwmu/news.newsmain?action=article&ARTICLE_ID=1245390§ionID=1

24. *March 17, Reuters* – (National) **Doctors warn of superbug infection in face-lifts.** A dangerous drug-resistant bacterial infection has been showing up in a small number of patients who undergo face-lifts, doctors reported on Monday. When infections do occur at surgical sites following such procedures “the facial plastic surgeon should have a high suspicion” for MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) as the source, they said. A review of 780 U.S. face-lift patients from 2001 to 2007 found five – 0.6 percent – with infections at incision sites. Four were confirmed as MRSA, all in 2006. Of the four, two patients appeared to have been exposed to the bacteria before surgery – one who had spent time with her spouse in a cardiac intensive care unit four months earlier, and another who had frequent contact with her brother-in-law, a cardiologist, the report said. As many as 1.5 percent of Americans carry the highly contagious infection and may spread it to others without developing a serious infection themselves. It was blamed for an estimated 19,000 deaths in 2005 in the United States.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSN1755923220080317?feedType=RSS&feedName=healthNews&rpc=22&sp=true>

25. *March 17, Associated Press* – (International) **WHO: Progress in fighting TB slows.** The fight against the global tuberculosis epidemic has slowed to a crawl, the World Health Organization said in a report Monday. The worldwide rate of TB infection has been declining for several years. But between 2005 and 2006, the rate of new cases fell by less than one percent, far less than the annual decrease of five to seven percent sought by health officials. At the same time, drug-resistant TB is growing faster than ever, the WHO said last month. Independent health experts criticized the WHO’s TB policy as too passive, and urged a more proactive strategy. WHO conceded the most recent decline in the overall infection rate “is very modest, and is not as fast as we would like it to be,” said the executive secretary of the organization’s Stop TB Partnership. In 2006, there were an estimated 9.2 million new cases and 1.5 million deaths, the WHO said in its report, which was based on government data from 202 countries and regions. India and China have the most cases, followed by Indonesia, South Africa, and Nigeria, the report said.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080317/ap_on_he_me/who_tb_report;_ylt=Arov9zxxv2aqSVIxqgyUUQys0NUE

26. *March 17, CIDRAP News* – (National) **CDC pandemic exercise highlights drug, mitigation, travel issues.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

staged a major pandemic simulation exercise last week, involving numerous different scenarios. Scenarios included how to keep travelers from spreading the virus and what to do in the face of serious side effects caused by the leading antiviral drug. It was the fourth in a series of exercises based on a scenario that puts the U.S. at the epicenter of an evolving pandemic featuring an H5N1 strain of flu. Instead of watching anxiously as a pandemic emerges on some other continent, the scenario goes, the U.S. has about 75 percent of the world's cases, all stemming from a traveler from Southeast Asia who brought the virus into the country. The series of exercises began in January 2007.

Although the event was only an exercise, it offered a close-up look at the CDC's expectations about the kinds of challenges it will face in the early stages of a real pandemic and how it might be likely to respond. The simulation involved a total of roughly 1,000 people, most of them from the CDC, but also a number from other government agencies.

Source:

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/mar1708exercise.html>

Government Facilities Sector

Nothing to Report

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Emergency Services Sector

27. *March 17, Naples Daily News* – (Florida) **Mock bus crash preps emergency responders.** On Monday morning, a mock school bus crash brought together nearly a dozen government agencies for emergency preparedness training. The mock crash was held in a College parking lot and will be repeated Tuesday and Wednesday. The event was evaluated by a team of four, one each from Lehigh Acres, South Trail, and Iona McGregor Fire Rescue and City of Fort Myers Fire Department. The Lee County School District, Lee County Sheriff's Office, and Lee County Emergency Medical Services also participated in the drill.

Source: http://naplesnews.com/news/2008/mar/17/mock-bus-crash-preps-emergency-responders/?partner=yahoo_headlines

28. *March 17, Gainesville Daily Register* – (Texas) **Mass casualty exercise tests first responders.** Emergency responders from various Cooke County agencies arrived at Era, Texas, for a mass casualty exercise. The exercise brought together volunteer firefighters, state troopers, emergency management officials, EMS responders, members of the media, and others to test how well these life-saving organizations can work together during a crisis. "We've already noted some things," the Emergency Management Coordinator and County Fire Marshall said of small deficiencies in the county's collective response to an emergency. "Everything isn't perfect, but it isn't supposed to be," he said, adding that the purpose of the exercise is reveal both good and not-so-good aspects of the county's emergency response plans so that adjustments can be made. He

also said that the purpose of the response exercise was to ensure that adequate communications capability exists among participating agencies, to assess Cooke County's health services capacity for handling a mass casualty event, to identify any challenges faced by individual entities, to allow first responders and medical professionals to practice their mass casualty triage system, and to allow Cooke County educators and administrators to test their own emergency disaster plans.

Source: http://www.gainesvilleregister.com/local/local_story_077114219.html

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Information Technology

29. *March 18, Ars Technica* – (National) Ongoing IFrame attack proving difficult to kill.

One of the factors that make an ongoing malware attack so difficult to stop is the speed with which the assault can evolve. Over the past 12 days, an IFrame injection attack that originally focused on ZDNet Asia has been spreading across the Net, changing targets and payloads on an almost daily basis. An iFrame (short for inline frame) is an element of HTML that is used to embed HTML from another source into a webpage. This particular IFrame exploit takes advantage of web site query caching. Web sites often cache the results of search queries that are run locally. These search results are forwarded to search engine providers (think Google or Yahoo), who use the information to generate their own search results. Hackers exploit the system by typing a query immediately followed by the text of an IFrame. This data (including the IFrame) is then passed to various search engines and displayed if a user searches for a relevant keyword. When the user visits an apparently legitimate document, the IFrame activates and attempts to complete whatever instructions it has been given. The major advantage of an injected attack versus an embedded one is that an injected attack requires no direct access to a web site's server backend. Instead, it takes advantage of the company's SEO (Search Engine Optimization) practices and poisons the results that are fed back to web surfers. The first wave of injections targeted ZDNet Asia and torrentreactor.net. The attackers shifted away from these two domains quickly and branched out into other web sites. One key purpose of the attack was to advertise the rogue antivirus product developed by the RBN (Russian Business Network), XP Antivirus.

Source: <http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20080318-ongoing-iframe-attack-proving-difficult-to-kill.html>

30. *March 18, Computerworld* – (National) Malicious subtitle file could trip up media player.

A flaw in the widely-used open-source VLC media player could allow an attacker to execute harmful code on a PC. The problem stems from a buffer overflow that can occur when the player processes subtitle files used for movies, according to a security advisory. The vulnerability existed before VLC was upgraded to version 0.8.6e in late February, but the bug appears to have escaped the last round of patches. Video files can contain a link to a separate subtitle file, which VLC automatically loads when it plays the video. An attacker could use the buffer overflow flaw in VLC to execute malicious code contained in a subtitle file, and thus tamper with a PC. The flaw affects VLC players running on Windows, Mac, BSD and possibly more operating systems. The VLC media player is part of the VideoLAN project. The player is free, and it is

released under the GNU General Public License. VLC can also be used as a streaming media server for a variety of platforms.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9069178&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

31. *March 17, Information Week* – (National) **Internet Explorer 8 could break applications, Gartner warns.** Microsoft's improved support for Web standards in its Internet Explorer 8 browser "will result in pages that don't display correctly for some enterprise applications," analysts at tech research firm Gartner warn. This is because many Web- or intranet-facing applications used in business were built to work with previous versions of Explorer, in which Microsoft often favored its own protocols over universal Web standards. With Explorer 8, slated for full release later this year, Microsoft has promised default compatibility with W3C guidelines. Among other things, the browser features support for Web programming standards such as CCS 2.1 and HTML 5. It also promises improved support for the Ajax programming language. "Microsoft is trying to woo the Web 2.0 world," Gartner said in a document published last week. The researchers said it is "an indicator of what some have called 'the new Microsoft.'"

Source:

<http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=206904001&subSection=All+Stories>

32. *March 17, Associated Press* – (National) **It's prison for ID thief who used P2P software.** A Seattle man was sentenced to more than four years in prison Monday in what prosecutors said was the first federal case against someone using file-sharing software to steal identities. The man pleaded guilty in November to mail fraud, aggravated identity theft, and accessing a protected computer without authorization to further fraud. Although people have been prosecuted for using networks to illegally share copyrighted music, movies, and software, the Justice Department called the prosecution its first case against someone accused of using file-sharing programs to commit identity theft. The man received four years and three months in prison.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23682023/>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

33. *March 18, vnunet.com* – (International) **Boffins bounce photons off satellite.** Scientists have successfully hit a satellite with a stream of protons in an experiment to build a

global quantum-encrypted communications network. A professor and his team from the University of Vienna used a 1.5 meter telescope at the Matera Laser Ranging Observatory in Italy to bounce single photons off the Ajisai geodetic satellite 1400km above the earth. The project smashed his previous record of 144km. With the right satellite in orbit the stream could be used to send quantum-encoded data that is virtually unbreakable using current known technology. But, up until now, the blurring effects of the atmosphere has made sending data in this way practically impossible. The team managed to hit the Ajisai satellite, which is one of a number of 'mirror ball' satellites used solely for measurement, and receive coherent data back. The researchers tried to establish contact with similar satellites further away, but were unable to do so, according to the physics arXiv blog. The next stage would be to build satellites capable of receiving signals and either decoding them and sending back information, or firing them sideways to other satellites to establish a global communications network.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2212264/boffins-bounce-photons>

34. *March 18, Information Week* – (National) **VoiceCon: Nortel adds mobility to unified communications mix.** New communications server software from Nortel lets enterprises extend VoIP and unified communications features to cell phones and smartphones, improving decision making and productivity, the vendor said Monday at the VoiceCon tradeshow in Orlando, Florida. Nortel's mobile unified communications solutions are embedded in Communication Server 1000 IP PBX 5.5, available in April, and the new Mobile Communication 3100 2.0, a fixed-mobile convergence system for enterprises that's available now. The vendor also unveiled IP Softphone 2050 3.0 for laptop PCs and a new high-capacity SIP DECT system for outside the U.S. Business-people use about six different communication devices and almost as many applications on those devices, but that's not helping people connect any more easily, Nortel said. By adding mobility to the unified communications mix, workers can eliminate wasted time and the frustration of managing multiple phone numbers and voice-mail boxes, the company said. Now, mobile workers get access to the same voice calling features as the corporate network, like dialing by extension, conferencing, and call transferring. Nortel has also added single phone number and voice mail across multiple devices (desk phone, PC, and mobile). As with instant messaging, a presence indicator lets colleagues know an individual's availability and online status. A handoff key allows users to transfer calls from their mobile to their desktop phones. Unified communications can help reduce mobile communications costs by up to 30 percent through more efficient handling of mobile calls using corporate dial plans, the vendor said.

Source:

<http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=206904195>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to Report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to Report

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Dams Sector

35. *March 17, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Hidalgo County levee breach would cause \$1.76B in damage.** If Hidalgo County’s levees along the Rio Grande are breached by flood waters, the damage would cost \$1.76 billion, an economics professor says in a new study. An associate economics professor at the University of Texas-Pan American conducted the economic impact study for the Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1. It was released Monday. The bulk of the cost would be \$1.55 billion in damage to structures and their contents. The 50,000 households that would be displaced would cost another \$507 million to re-settle, and automobiles would be damaged to the tune of \$154 million. Work to repair levees in Hidalgo County is scheduled to begin in May. The county is putting up about \$40 million for the repairs but is fighting for reimbursement since the levees are a federal responsibility.
Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/5627389.html>

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